Claim Amendments

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

28. (New) A computer-implemented method of operation for a wireless local area network (WLAN) that includes a chain of repeaters, the method comprising:

(a) tuning on a channel of a frequency band by a first repeater to determine whether the channel is available for use;

(b) testing the channel for reliability by sending data from the first repeater to a next repeater in the chain, and receiving data back from the next repeater by the first repeater; and

(c) allocating the channel for use as a transmission link between the first and next repeaters.

29. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 further comprising repeating (a)-(c) for each repeater in the chain.

30. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 further comprising repeating (a)-(c) for each repeater in the chain with each transmission link utilizing a different channel.

31. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 further comprising monitoring signal quality of the channel during data transmissions.

32. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 31 further comprising switching to a different channel if the signal quality falls below a certain level.

33. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 wherein (a)-(c) are performed by at least one processor of the WLAN.

34. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 wherein (a)-(c) are performed by at least one processor of an access point that functions as a data source.

35. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 wherein the frequency band comprises a 5GHz frequency band.

36. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 28 wherein the frequency band comprises a 2.4GHz frequency band.

37. (New) A computer-implemented method of operation for a wireless local area network (WLAN) that includes a source access point and a chain of repeaters, the method comprising:

transmitting, by the source access point and each of the repeaters, at a first power level sufficient to establish communications with all of the repeaters in the chain;

reducing transmission power output, by at least one of the repeaters, to a second power level.

38. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 wherein the first power level comprises a maximum power level.

39. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 wherein the second power level comprises a minimum level needed to maintain communications.

40. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising reducing transmission power output by the source access point.

41. (New) A computer-implemented method of operation for a wireless local area network (WLAN) that includes a source access point and a chain of repeaters to provide a wireless connection between a source access point and a destination device, the method comprising:

transmitting, by each of the repeaters, at a first power level sufficient to establish communications with all of the repeaters in the chain;

reducing transmission power, by at least one of the repeaters, to a minimum level needed to maintain communications with all of the repeaters.

42. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 41 wherein the reducing of transmission power is responsive to a command from a processor associated with the source access point.

43. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 41 wherein the reducing of transmission power is responsive to a command from a processor associated with the at least one of the repeaters.

44. (New) A computer-implemented method of operation for a wireless local area network (WLAN) that includes a source access point and a chain of repeaters, the method comprising:

transmitting, by each of the repeaters, at a first power level to establish communication links between the repeaters in the chain;

reducing transmission power, by each of the repeaters, to a minimum level needed to maintain the communication links.

45. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 44 wherein the reducing of transmission power is responsive to a command from a processor associated with the source access point.

46. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 44 wherein the first power level comprises a maximum power level.